

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

CUBA—THE EXCITEMENT IN SPAIN.

A telegram from Madrid says the Spanish press has been in a complete ferment of excitement and indignation since the presentation of General Siskies' notes to the Government.

The excitement in Spain is not a mere excitement of the press, but a general excitement of the people. The press of Spain, England, and France is much occupied with the subject also.

While there is still some of the old jealousy of the United States apparent in the articles of the London and Paris newspapers, the Cuban question and difficulties are in general fairly discussed.

It is difficult to believe, as one of the European journals says, "that Spain, with a divided people, a bankrupt treasury, one colony in revolt, others to lose, and nothing to win, can seriously contemplate war with one of the greatest powers on earth."

Nor do we see what cause Spain has or can have to declare war against the United States. Our Government has been active for a year during the struggle in Cuba in favoring Spain by suppressing expeditions to aid the Cubans.

It has indirectly aided Spain by permitting arms, ammunition and supplies to go from this country for the Spaniards, while it has been vigilant in preventing any leaving for the Cubans.

In fact, it has gone in direct opposition to public sentiment here in the desire to see its good feeling and honest policy toward a friendly nation.

And now when the war in Cuba has been prolonged for a year, when the atrocious conduct of it by Spain has shocked the civilized world, when the Cubans have been gaining ground all the time, and when the insurance promises to be successful, our Government offers itself as a mediator to settle the difficulty.

Is that a cause of war? Is the offer to guarantee a hundred millions of dollars to Spain for the independence of Cuba, when by simply being passive or inactive Cuba would be freed without paying a dollar, an unfriendly act?

will not turn him aside from his purpose. Nor will the people of this great country give up their policy or the object they have in view at the threat of war.

The administration has only to be firm, and the Spanish government and people will come to their senses. The present excitement in Spain is simply a little storm, which has been raised probably for political effect, but which will pass away and leave the horizon clear for a settlement of the Cuban difficulty.

THE DOMINION NORTH OF US. The situation in the new Dominion north of us is a very peculiar one. While the pact of confederation was entered into by the Canadian, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, it had the cordial consent of the home government of Great Britain, for the following reason:—The home Government desired to get rid of these American colonies, and believed that the consolidation would so strengthen them in real power and self-esteem as that they would be then ready to assume and maintain an independence which could be yielded to them without dishonor by the crown.

It was a necessity to establish and foster an intercolonial trade which should, partially at least, take the place of the comparatively free trade which the Canadas enjoyed with the United States before the abolition of the Regency treaty. And of the proposed advantages of the confederation, Canadian politicians, merchants and financiers hoped to obtain the lion's share.

New Brunswick went into the confederation with similar objects, though not without distrust of the result on the part of a good many of her people. Nova Scotia was betrayed into the confederation by the votes of politicians who were elected nearly two years before the question came up.

So, while nothing could have been better devised for the prosperity of all the provinces included (deprived as they were of reciprocal trade with us), no unanimity of energy or sentiment resulted—no confidence and no proud, patriotic feeling were engendered by the fact of the Dominion. The Constitution of the new Government was a hurriedly got up, hatched affair, leaving everything at the mercy of the politicians who happened to be in power.

The most powerful politicians were those of the Canadas. The representatives of the people of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the Government and in Parliament did not have the unmitigated confidence of their own neighbors and constituents.

The chronic discontent, of which we just now hear so much, therefore varies in degree and kind, according to locality. In Canada (the provinces of Quebec and Ontario), the young men are for the independence of the Dominion. The agitation for annexation to the United States is confined to a class of second-rate politicians, scoundrels, and nobodies.

In New Brunswick, a large and reputable class, but not a majority, and in Nova Scotia, a still larger and more disinterested number, hate the Dominion and the Dominion government, and would hail, to-morrow, the opportunity of going over to the United States.

There is in fact no homogeneity, no sympathy, between the different provinces of the Dominion. Instead of there being a distrust and rancor, and an intent on the part of the Dominion to join hands and make a new nation.

The Governor-General's late tour through the lower provinces rather excited and increased expressions of discontent. Prince Arthur's visit has had no perceptible effect upon the grumblers anywhere. He has been treated with great respect as the son of the Queen; but the grumbling continues all the same.

for her terrible freak of lunacy. At a time when England stands ready to give a nuttily benediction to her colonies should they decide to leave her household and erect establishments of their own, Spain with a bloody mind is bent upon repeating a performance of the middle ages, when conquerors became murderers, because they were stupid in the first place, and avicious in the second.

The fierce exclamation which has gone forth from the press of Madrid at a word of our Minister addressed in behalf of common sense, has, no doubt, decided the hesitating and not entirely incorrigible Government of Prim and Serrano upon making the demonstration of vessels and troops which Admiral Topete is to command, and which will, according to report, sail for Cuba.

Foreign opinion is discussing the possibilities of a war between Spain and the United States—upon what pretext? Not the conduct of America as respects her international obligations, for, though at variance with Spain in her torture of Cuba, we have felt bound to maintain our neutrality with a circumspection that nations have seldom used, and which, upon the whole, has told rather to the disadvantage of Cuba than of Spain.

Not to the note of General Siskies, for he disclaims, and so do the Washington authorities, anything more than an offer of friendly mediation. What then? We presume that the latest temper of the Spanish people is due mainly to their ignorance of the spelling-book and the map.

By far the most of them know not how to read and write, and it is in obedience to their unlettered passions that the Regency is apparently wreaking itself upon a last effort to retain a province. How can the Catalans and Vascongadas know that the United States is a great country, and that Spain is almost bankrupt, and Cuba almost a ruin?

First Fruit of Anti-American Policy. From the N. Y. Republic. A cable dispatch of several months ago, announcing that steps were initiating towards the formation of a tripartite alliance between England, France, and Spain against the United States, was widely scoffed. It looks now as if it was then true. It had contradiction, and to-day almost receives confirmation.

The cable recently declared that Spain has solicited and almost secured the assistance of England and France to prevent this Government from seizing Cuba, either directly or indirectly, by requiring the Spaniards to sell the island to the insurgents on bonds to be guaranteed by us.

Along with this important declaration comes the official assurance from Washington that General Siskies was instructed not to demand the sale of Cuba to the insurgents, "but merely to mediate in a friendly way."

CONSPIRACY TO RAISE THE PRICE OF GOLD. From the N. Y. Sun. An alliance of the most powerful and influential firms in Wall street, including notorious Erie speculators, has been effected with a view of obtaining the exclusive possession of all the gold in the market.

When this is accomplished, the conspirators can dictate their own terms, and merchants and others, who are compelled to buy or borrow gold, must necessarily procure it of this auferent ring. It is also believed that these schemers own all the gold deposited in the banks.

Having thus the power of control, the operators are gradually raising the price of gold about an eighth per cent. daily. Their agents in the gold room buy all that is offered at their standard bid, and only sell at a quarter per cent higher. At this rate they will elevate the buying and selling price each succeeding week about one-and-a-half per cent.

PENSIONS FOR OUR CIVIL SERVICE.

It has long been a deserved reproach to our American political system, that we discharge good and competent officers from the civil service solely on partisan grounds.

Such sketches of the inner workings of our civil service will surprise most of our readers, who have looked upon the incoming of a new administration as a pretty "clean sweep" of old incumbents, at least where the latter do not hold the political doctrines of the party in power.

On the other hand, to give their livelihoods to younger and more active men would be inhuman. What we really need, therefore, is a system of pensions in the civil service, whereby veterans in this, as in the army and navy, can be retired on half pay, or with such other provision as may, on examination, seem fit.

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